

Message Text

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SUBJECT: JOINT U.S.-GUYANA CONSTRUCTION OF CANJE RIVER BRIDGE

1. THE CANJE RIVER BRIDGE WHICH WAS COMPLETED EIGHT MONTHS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE WITH A USAID LOAN AND FUNDS FROM THE GUYANA GOVERNMENT WAS OFFICIALLY DECLARED OPEN ON FEBRUARY 23 TO COINCIDE WITH THE EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF GUYANA AS A REPUBLIC.

2. THE CEREMONY AT NEW AMSTERDAM, 70 MILES EAST OF GEORGETOWN, GUYANA'S CAPITAL CITY, WAS WITNESSED BY PRIME MINISTER FORBES BURNHAM AND SEVERAL SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U.S. MISSION HERE.

3. MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT, STEVE NARAIN DESCRIBED THE 1,732-FOOT LONG CANJE BRIDGE AS "JUSTIFIED INVESTMENT AND ONE THAT WOULD IMPROVE GREATER COMMUNICATION FACILITIES." ACCORDING TO THE MINISTER, MORE THAN 400,000 MAN HOURS WILL BE SAVED AS A RESULT OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW BRIDGE AND RESULT IN TREMENDOUS SAVINGS TO THE ECONOMY AND ROAD-USERS AS WELL.

4. PRAISES WERE SHOWERED BY OTHER OFFICIALS ON FREDERIC HARRIS ENGINEERING CORPORATION, CONSULTANTS; ALONG WITH THE UNCLASSIFIED

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LOCAL FIRM OF AUBREY BARKER ASSOCIATES LTD. AND THE WORKERS OF CORPORATION RAYMOND FOR THE TECHNICAL BRILLIANCE AND DOGGED DETERMINATION WHICH ENSURED THE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT EIGHT MONTHS AHEAD OF THE ORIGINAL TARGET COMPLETION DATE.

5. MR. ZACHARY DE GASTER, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF FREDERIC

HARRIS ENGINEERING CORPORATION STATED THAT HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE CANJE BRIDGE AND ADDED "MOST SIGNIFICANT HOWEVER, HAS BEEN THE GREAT LEADERSHIP OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA AND THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WHO BOTH HAD THE WILL TO BUILD THIS BRIDGE FOR THE PEOPLE OF NEW AMSTERDAM AND FOR THE NATION."

6. U.S. CHARGE D' AFFAIRES, MR. JOHN BLACKEN, SAID THAT THE OFFICIAL DEDICATION WAS TAKING PLACE AT A VERY IMPORTANT AND SIGNIFICANT DAY IN GUYANESE HISTORY. HE MADE REFERENCE TO THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE OF 1763 WHICH TOOK PLACE UP THE CANJE RIVER AND DESCRIBED THE NEW BRIDGE AS PHYSICALLY AND SYMBOLICALLY PART OF THE PROCESS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE TO ACHIEVE GREATER NATIONAL UNITY IN ALL THE MEANINGS OF THE CONCEPT- CULTURAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND GEOGRAPHIC.

7. THE CANJE BRIDGE WHICH WAS BUILT WITH A USAID LOAN CONTRIBUTION OF US DOLS 3.8 MILLION AND US DOLS 1.25 MILLION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA WAS OPENED TO TRAFFIC FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MID-JANUARY AFTER A BRIEF CEREMONY. ON THAT OCCASION, U.S. AMBASSADOR JOHN BURKE DESCRIBED THE ACHIEVEMENT AS SYMBOLIC OF THE EXCELLENT COOPERATION BETWEEN CORPORATION RAYMOND AND ITS GUYANESE EMPLOYEES AND THE OFFICIALS OF THE GUYANA GOVERNMENT. KIBBLE

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